

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /068 W

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R 091704Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0322

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY QR

PUUF

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

RUFHROPVAMEMBASSY ROME 0220

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

RUDKARXAMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 1715

AMEMBASSYJIUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

RUDKSAMAMEMBASSY SOFIA 1223

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11655

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GW GE UR WB UK FR

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SUBJECT: USSR AND GDR REACTIONS TO THE FRG REPLY TO

THE SOVIET MAY 22 DECLARATION

REFS: (A) BONN 10791 NOTAL; (B) BONN 11117;
(C) MOSCOW 10632 NOTAL

SUMMARY: FRG FONOFF REPORTS THAT GROMYKO DESCRIBED THE FRG REPLY TO THE SOVIET MAY 22 DECLARATION AS A MIXTURE OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ELEMENTS WITH A GENERALLY POSITIVE TONE. GDR ASSESSMENT OF THE REPLY WAS LESS ENTHUSIASTIC. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE JULY 8 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG REP (VON ARNIM) DESCRIBED GROMYKO'S ASSESSMENT OF THE FRG REPLY TO THE SOVIET MAY 22 DECLARATION. IN HIS JULY 2 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SAHM, GROMYKO SAID THAT HE HAD READ THROUGH THE REPLY BUT WOULD, OF COURSE, NEED MORE TIME TO STUDY IT CAREFULLY. NEVERTHELESS, HE DID HAVE SOME PRELIMINARY REACTIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO VON ARNIM, GROMYKO VIEWED THE REPLY AS A MIXTURE OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ELEMENTS. BOTH "LIGHT AND SHADOW" COULD BE FOUND IN THE FRG RESPONSE. THE USSR WOULD PREFER TO EMPHASIZE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE STATEMENT. HOWEVER, IT COULD BE EXPECTED TO REPLY TO THE MORE NEGATIVE SECTIONS.

3. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, GROMYKO NOTED THE PARTS RELATING TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF FRG/USSR RELATIONS AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION UNDER THE MOSCOW TREATY. IN GROMYKO'S VIEW, THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE FRG REPLY WAS FOR DETENTE, COOPERATION, AND PEACE.

4. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, THE USSR WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO EXPRESS ITS "SOLIDARITY" WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE REPLY. SPECIFICALLY, GROMYKO MENTIONED THE SECTIONS ON BERLIN, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR, THE ARMS RACE AND DISARMAMENT, AND THE ROLE OF NATO IN EUROPE. GROMYKO SAID THAT THE USSR COULD BE EXPECTED TO COMMENT ON THESE ASPECTS OF THE REPLY.
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HE DID NOT INDICATE WHAT FORM THE COMMENT WOULD TAKE.

5. GROMYKO CONCLUDED BY REEMPHASIZING THE POINT THAT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 11655

THE FRG RESPONSE WAS A MIXTURE OF ELEMENTS

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WITH A GENERALLY POSITIVE TONE. BOTH SIDES WOULD HAVE TO PROCEED STEP BY STEP IN DEEPENING THEIR RELATIONS. THE USSR WAS WILLING TO DO ITS PART IN THAT PROCESS.

6. GROMYKO COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THE FRG REPLY WOULD BE REPRINTED IN THE SOVIET PRESS. HE FELT THAT PARTS OF IT MIGHT BE AND OBSERVED THAT THE COMPLETE SOVIET STATEMENT HAD NOT BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE GERMAN PRESS.

7. VON ARNIM'S ACCOUNT OF GDR REACTION TO THE REPLY WAS BASED UPON A GAUS/SEIDEL MEETING CONCERNING OTHER MATTERS ON JULY 6.

8. SEIDEL SAID HE COULD ONLY RESPOND UNOFFICIALLY. SOME PARTS OBVIOUSLY AFFECTED THE GDR, NOTABLY THE SECTIONS ON THE GERMAN PEOPLE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WERE AN INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE GDR. THEY WENT BEYOND THE LETTER ON GERMAN UNITY. SPECIFICALLY, THE COMMENTARY ON ARTICLE 7 OF THE GDR/USSR TREATY WAS UNACCEPTABLE. ACCORDING TO SEIDEL, THE GDR INCREASINGLY BELIEVED THAT THE FRG MADE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FRG POSITION IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN A CONDITION FOR FURTHER DETENTE POLICY.
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